

TOP SECRET

1060

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GENERAL

1. Berlin city officials approached by Communists -- According to Acting Political Adviser Gantenbein in Berlin, several Socialist officials in the city government have been approached by persons presumably in contact with the Communist-run Socialist Unity Party (SED). Gantenbein reports that some of those approached fear the overtures may lead to a proposal to unite the Soviet and western sector governments under the leadership of the SED. Gantenbein reports that the western officials have thus far rebuffed the overtures but fear that they may have the tacit approval of the US. Gantenbein recommends that the US reassure the Berlin city officials by telling them that the US will not encourage any political rapprochement which is opposed by the western sector government and that it is up to the Germans to treat Communist overtures as they see fit.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the attitude of the west Berlin officials reflects their growing fear that the US is losing both the political initiative in Berlin and control over the deteriorating economic situation.)

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